

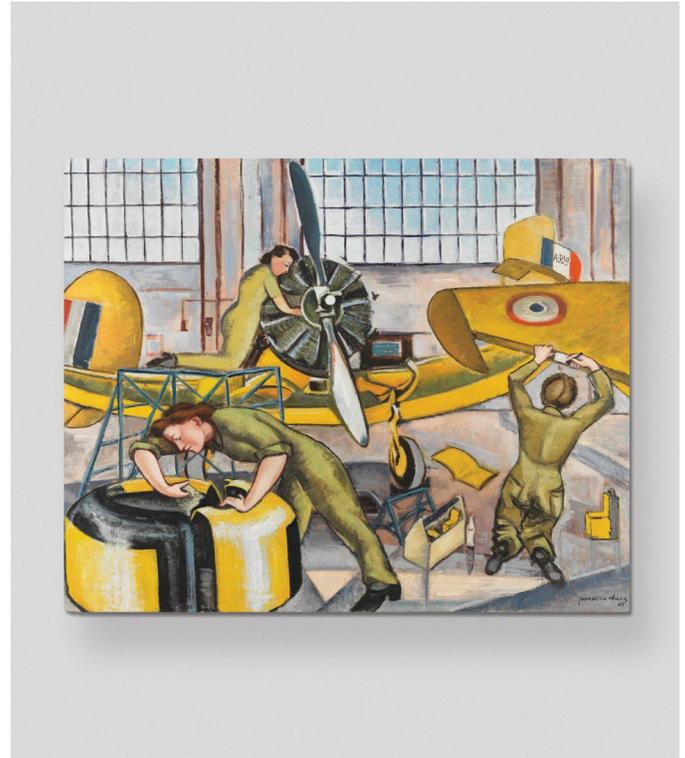


**SUPPLY  
LINE**

## War Art

Paraskeva Clark's colourful painting shows women working on aircraft at a **British Commonwealth Air Training Plan** base in Canada. During the war, Clark painted scenes like this of members of the **Royal Canadian Air Force Women's Division**.

Reproduction



*Maintenance Jobs in the Hangar*  
Painted by Paraskeva Clark in 1945  
Oil on canvas  
Beaverbrook Collection of War Art  
Canadian War Museum 19710261-5678

### Recording the War Through Art

In this oil painting, Paraskeva Clark shows members of the Royal Canadian Air Force Women's Division working on aircraft in a hangar. Before the war, such tasks had been seen as "men's work."

The women are wearing overalls to protect their clothes from oil and dirt. The aircraft are painted in the bright yellow used by the **British Commonwealth Air Training Plan**.

Paraskeva Clark was already a well-known artist by the Second World War. The National Gallery of Canada asked her to paint the activities of the Women's Division of the Royal Canadian

Air Force. She was one of several civilian artists commissioned by the National Gallery to record home-front scenes.

## War Art and the Military

This work was part of a larger program of creating Canadian war art. It also involved artists who were members of the military. They recorded their experiences as sketches and photographs in the field, then produced finished works of art in their studios.

These 31 artists produced more than 5,000 works of art depicting the war in Canada and overseas. Many of the artists, such as Alex Colville, had prominent postwar careers. Molly Lamb Bobak was the only female official war artist sent overseas.

## Other Kinds of War Art

Along with this official war art, many other kinds of art were created during the war. Some military men and women, for example, sketched and painted their own experiences. Other examples include the nose art that decorated military aircraft, and the gun shield art on many Royal Canadian Navy warships.

Cartoons and illustrations were also a form of unofficial war art, appearing in many wartime publications. They presented the lives of military personnel in a light-hearted manner.

Commercial artists created propaganda posters seen in many places. Artists created war-related advertisements and illustrations for books and magazines, as well.

## Vocabulary

### **British Commonwealth Air Training Plan:**

This program trained aircrew from the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and other Allied countries. More than 131,000 personnel trained in Canada.